

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--25 AUGUST 1962

1. USSR-SPACE:

A SPACE VEHICLE WAS LAUNCHED FROM TYURATAM LATE LAST NIGHT WITH ALL THE RESEMBLANCES OF A VENUS PROBE. THE VEHICLE HAS BEEN PLACED IN AN EARTH ORBIT FAVORABLE FOR AN INJECTION INTO A TRAJECTORY TOWARD VENUS;

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2. ECUADOR:

THE LONG-SIMMERING POLITICAL POT FINALLY BOILED OVER YESTERDAY WHEN THE CABINET RESIGNED AS A BODY. THE CONGRESS IS GIVING SOME SIGNS OF WANTING TO GO AFTER PRESIDENT AROSEMENA'S SCALP ALSO. WE CANNOT AS YET PREDICT JUST HOW THIS WILL WORK OUT BUT IN ANY SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE WE EXPECT THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY TO BE DECISIVE. THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS OUGHT TO TELL THE TALE.

3. US/COMMUNIST CHINA:

IN WARSAW ON THURSDAY, AMBASSADOR CABOT SAT THROUGH A SESSION WITH WANG PING-NAN WHICH DEPARTED FROM THE USUAL BY INCLUDING A TOUGHLY-WORDED COMPLAINT ABOUT US NAVAL PATROL ACTIVITY IN WATERS OFF THE NORTH CHINA COAST. THE SITUATION, WANG SAID, HAD GONE "TOO FAR TO BE TOLERATED," BUT HE DID NOT SAY SPECIFICALLY WHAT PEIPING INTENDS TO DO ABOUT IT.

4. LAOS:

A. [REDACTED] INSTRUCTING THE KONG LE -50X1
PATHET LAO COMMANDERS AT THE NHOMMARATH CHECKPOINT JUST HOW TO

(Cont'd)

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PROCEED WITH A DUMMY WITHDRAWAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ICC. WHILE THE COMMANDERS LAY LOW, CAREFULLY PICKED LIAISON PERSONNEL WILL PRODUCE FIVE VIETNAMESE "INSTRUCTORS" WHO WILL BE DESCRIBED AS THE LAST SUCH GROUP TO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR MISSION. THE "INSTRUCTORS" WILL BE FLOWN OUT BY HELICOPTER TO NORTH VIETNAM.

B. MEANWHILE, THE KONG LE- PATHET LAO SIDE CONTINUES TO SHOW LITTLE RESPECT FOR THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. AT LAST REPORT, KONG LE TROOPS WERE SET TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK IN THE VANG VIANG AREA (60 MILES NORTH OF VIENTIANE) TODAY, PRESUMABLY TO DISLODGE PHOUMI TROOPS FROM ADVANCE POSITIONS ALONG THE NAM LIK RIVER.

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5. NOTES:

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B. BONN, FEELING A BUDGET PINCH AS A RESULT OF WAGE INCREASES RECENTLY GRANTED TO GOVERNMENT-OWNED INDUSTRIES, IS PLANNING FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL CUTS IN 1963 DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, THEREBY LOWERING THE DEFENSE BUDGET BELOW THE LEVEL REQUIRED FOR CONTINUATION OF THE PLANNED BUILD-UP.

C. [REDACTED] AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH MOSCOW IS TO SUPPLY THE YUGOSLAVS WITH

A SECRET 50X1

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[REDACTED]

SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES. YUGOSLAVIA THIS YEAR HAS ALREADY RECEIVED TANKS, ARTILLERY AND RADAR FROM THE USSR, AND WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE [REDACTED]

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D. PERU: JUNTA LEADERS HAVE BEGUN TO PUT THE PRESSURE ON OUR EMBASSY TO GET US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS GOING AGAIN.

[REDACTED]

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F. BEN BELLA'S POLITICAL BUREAU, CLEARLY IN NEED OF MORE TIME TO PUT ITS POLITICAL HOUSE IN ORDER, ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT IT WAS POSTPONING THE PLANNED 2 SEPTEMBER NATIONAL ELECTIONS UNTIL "REAL PEACE" IS ASSURED.

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